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THE OBSERVATOR.

...y the Foreign News. Of the Abdication of the King of Poland. *Of the Duke of* Bavaria. *Of* French *Plots and Intrigues. Of the high Flights of Loyaliſts. Of the Sea Preparati-ons of* France. *Of the Navy of* England.

From **Wednesday** February the 23d, to **Saturday** February the 26th, 170¾.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, There is a *Holland* Mail come in, and it brings us a parcel of *Abdicating News.* The King of *Poland* is run away, no Body can tell whither: As he run to the *Crown* from *God* and a good *Conſcience*; now he is run from his *Crown* to the *Prieſts* or the *Devil*; 'tis no great matter whither he's gone. But, I Proteſt, I ſhall believe you are a *Prophet*, you told us of this *Poliſh* Runaway about Eighteen Months ago, & ſo you did of the *Scots* Plot, in *June* laſt; for which a Proſecution was commenc'd againſt you at the *Old-Bayly*. Now were not thoſe *Jurymen*, a Set of Honeſt Gentlemen, that believ'd you, and flung out the Bill; when the *Ægyptian Hog*, and the *Court Terriers* would have worryed you for ſpeaking the Truth.

Obſ. You Talk from the Point; Prithee how ſtands that matter in *Poland*?

Country-m. Why the Parliament of *Poland* have met, and declared, That the Elector of *Saxony*, lately their King, has Acted againſt the Peoples *Laws*, their *Birthrights*, and *Immunities*, and that by doing ſo, he has Forfeited his Right to the *Crown*; they have declar'd the Throne Vacant, and the Letters ſay, That the ſame Perſon you mention'd for King of *Poland*, ſo long ago, is recommended to them; I think they call him Maſter *Sobieski*.

Obſ. Very well; you ſee other Nations, beſides *England*, know how to do themſelves Juſtice. All the People of the World are not in Non-Age, as are the *Spaniards*. Some People know how to chuſe Governours for themſelves, and when they have choſen One they don't like, they can do by him, as the fellow did by his *Wooden God*, But I tell thee a Throne is Vacant even during the Time a Tyrant ſits on it; for it can be Legally fill'd by no ſuch Perſon. The Throne was Vacant long before the *Abdication* of King *James*, for a *Papiſt* is no ways qualify'd to fill the Throne of *England*: A *Proteſtant* Crown can never fit a *Popiſh* Head; and we muſt fit the *Head* to the *Crown*, and not the *Crown* to the *Head*. I am very glad to hear this News; by this means the Broils in the *North* will be Compoſed, and that Mighty Prince, the Victorious King of *Sweden*, will be at Liberty to aſſiſt the Confederates.

Country-m. No, Sir, He'll not be able to do any thing of that Nature. For Maſter *Czar* of *Muſcovy* is coming to the Aſſiſtance of the *Abdicated* King, and there are a Company of *High-Flyers* in *Poland* that ſay they are Plaguy Loyal, and that they will ſtand by their King with their *Lives* and *Fortunes*; they ſay that the Cardinal Primate is an *Occaſional Conformiſt* to the King of *Sweden*, that he's a Rebel, and I don't know what my ſelf.

Obſ. The *Muſcovites* are a very Impotent Enemy, not a Match for a handful of *Swedes*. And the *High-Flying Loyaliſts* of all Countries are alike, meer *Bounces*, and *Braggadocio's*, *Bubbles*, and *Airy Phantaſms*. Thoſe Princes are in a bad Condition that depend on the *Vaunts* and *Flouriſhes* of Intereſted Perſons. I'll tell thee a Story: When King *Charles* the Firſt was a Priſoner in *Carisbrook-Caſtle* in the *Iſle of Wight*, ſome Gentlemen came to him from a certain County with an Addreſs ſigned by ſeveral Thouſand of Hands, wherein they told him they would ſtand by him with their *Lives* and *Fortunes*, and made him wond'rous Promiſes. At which his Majeſty laying his Hat on the Table, fill'd a Glaſs of *Wine*, and Drank a good Health to the Gentlemen that Sign'd the ſaid Addreſs; and then putting on his Hat, he ſaid, *Now you may tell theſe Gentlemen, that I have done as much for them, as ever they will do for me.* And indeed had the Pretenſions of *Loyalty* to that Prince been ſincere, he had never been a Priſoner, he had never been over-come by the meaneſt of his Subjects; we had never kept a Day of Faſting for his Martyrdom, and the *Royal Family* had never been forc'd into Foreign Parts to Learn *Popery*.

Theſe mighty Pretenders to Loyalty are alſo ſo very fickle in their Reſolves, that there is no Dependance on their Promiſes, which are like the *French* Kings Leagues, to be kept no longer than their own Turn is ſerv'd: We had Inſtances enough hereof in the Reign of the late Unhappy Prince King *James*. No Prince had more Loyal Addreſſes, with Aſſurances of Aſſiſtance, than had that Unfortunate King. But ſome People are ſoon Diſpoſſeſs'd of the Spirit of Loyalty. A certain Town in the *North* of *England* Addreſs'd that King, and above all other things, thank'd him for his *Royal Army, which was not only the Honour but the Safety of the Nation*; yet in the Winter, when a Regiment of Dragoons of that *Royal Army* and *National Safety*, was quarter'd upon them, they could come to Court with a Sneaking Petition to have them remov'd.

You know a certain ſort of People Preach'd up the Doctrines of *Paſſive-Obedience* and *Non-Reſiſtance* to that Prince, and ſoon after Pray'd him out of the Throne. Well had it been for that Unfortunate King, if Biſhop *Overal's Convocation-Book*, had been found out ſome Years before his Abdication; by that means he might have been brought to Reaſon, and his People being Reconcil'd to their own Opinion, there might have been a Happy Reconciliation betwixt him and his People; but alas the means of his Safety were found out too late! ——— You'll find the ſame thing Acted on the Theatres of *Poland* and *Spain*.

Country-m. I hope they won't Hovel-Poſt the Monarch,

Monarch; how do they manage Tyrants in that Country?

Obs. Let them look to that. ——Prithee what more News?

Country-m. The *Male Contents* in *Hungary* are likely to come to an Accord with the Emperour, which the Folk at *London* say, will be of great Advantage to the *Confederacy*.

Obs. It will so, and I pray God Compose those Differences, and Widen and Strengthen the Rupture in the *Cevennes*.

Country-m. Here's another fine piece of News, the *French Tyrant* has a mistrust of the Elector of *Bavaria*, and demands Hostages for his *Fidelity*.

Obs. This News I have a long Time expected, and it carries with it a full Face of *Truth*. But how he will get rid of his *French* Forces, is another Question. He's a Prisoner in his own Country, which is Lamentably Ravaged by Foreigners, a just Judgment of God, on Men of such Notorious Perfidy and Treachery to their Native Country. I make no Question of their being weary of the *French* Task-Masters, who are much of the Nature of our *High-Flyers* in *England*, who when they get the least Advantage grow wonderous Insolent, and shew no Mercy on an Enemy in their Clutches; but shake and tremble at an equal Force, and are the most Cowardly under the Shocks of Adverse Fortune. *Bavaria* is now minded, it seems, to tread in the Steps of *Savoy*, but he'll hardly March with like Success, he has Vermin Sticking to his Skirts he'll hardly get rid of; and when he comes to Ballance his Accounts, he will find himself much a Loser. His Brother of *Cologn* might have been a Caution to him, not to enter into *French Intrigues*; *France*, in Case this proves true, must seek out another Ally, and Form a new Chimera to draw some Prince or other into his Confederacy; he must have Recourse to his old Arts of Corruption; if he has any farther Design to Embroil the Subjects of *Great Britain*, he must find better Emissaries than Captain *Frazier*, and they must Transact with Men of better Reputation than those concerted with in the late Plot; for such as have no Credit among the People either of *Scotland* or *England*, are very unlikely to Accomplish his Designs; I would farther Advise the *French Tyrant*, for the Future not to attempt a Sham Plot on Persons, that are Men of known Integrity, and of much clearer Heads than the Persons he employs to Trick 'em.

Country-m. I'll turn Polititian for once, and Advise *Lewis* the XIV. Tyrant of *France*, the *Devils Vicegerent* in *Europe* for the Time being, in his next Plot to send Young *Perkin* over as a Spy, and we'll take Care to have him *Hovel-pesled*, also let him send over Mrs. *Portsmouth*, with a Quantity of such *Chocolate*, as she gave Honest King *Charles* the Second. Rope take that *Brimstone*! that King *Charles* was a good Prince; a Man of Great *Parts*, and of an Excellent *Temper*; I did not care if *Beelzebub* had all the *Rogues* and *Whores* that misled him; he has a pretty many of 'em already, and he's very lazy in fetching the rest. I am sure we may date our Troubles from that Reign.

Obs. In a great Measure we may: But 'tis our own Fault. Princes are not Accountable to the People, for those *Male-Administrations*, which are occasioned by a Legal Council, but the Counsellours are Accountable for their Advice. O stories abound with Instances, how the Representative Body of the People have torn Counsellours and Favourites from the of Soveraigns, King *John*, *Edward* II. and *R* II. found this true by Woful Experience. indeed the People can never have too watchful Eye over such as grow too great in the Favo Princes: The Breasts of Princes ought to be fortified, for when one Great Man has got Poss of the Entrance, so that there is not a Cr left for others to peep in, we don't know who King. A Monopoly of Royal Favour by a Person or by a Party, which is of like Dange Pernicious both to the *Crown* and *Realm*. But more dangerous is it, when the Persons Sech are more Numerous and Potent, than those have got Possession of the *Royal Ear*, and thro themselves under the Umbrage of Majesty. Party that are deny'd their share of *Royal P* look upon themselves as Ballardiz'd, are sowr their *Tempers*, are turn'd into *Tinder*, and *Fire* on the least occasion.

It is therefore the Duty, and it has been Custom and Practice of the Representative B of the Kingdom, to sweep away *Court-Law* to cut off the *Suckers* that grow to the Thro and hinder its growth for the *Common-Good*, a such as go about to hinder *Parliamentary En ries*, are the worst Enemies of our *Constitu* Our Representatives are Physicians of the *Politick*, and such as by *Fraud* and *Collusion* he cover the Sores of the Kingdom from their vie may justly be deem'd the *Murderers* of the *Co mon-Wealth*: And then it Rationally follows, th such as make Discovery of the Wounds of t Nation to their proper Physicians, are the be of *Subjects*, the best of *Englishmen*, and deserve t greatest Encouragement from the Publick.

Country-m. And this you have done, and y have been wounded for your Pains. I fancy yo need not have spent so much of the Winter Seaso in my Woods, if you would have suffer'd the Sa lors to have fed on Stinking Beef and Pork ti they had all Dy'd.

Obs. A certain Person of the Victualling mad a Trifle of Ten Thousand Saylors Dying in on Year; but I am of another Opinion, we had bet ter lose thrice that Number of Officers; but thank God I have done my Duty, and if by m Endeavours the Saylors are better Provided for, shall be the better Reconciled to the Troubles meet with on that Account.

I am sure we have never more reason than at present, to take Care of our *Navy*, I find by these Prints, that the *French* intend to make a vigorous Effort with their *Naval* strength in the *Mediterranean* this next Summer; and that our Fleet will have something more to do, than barely to go thither, look about 'em, and come home. Our *Ships Guns* have not been of late Years so much us'd to Fighting, as to *Charge*, *Discharge* and *Traverse* of themselves, they are not like the *Old Womans Pitcher*, that was carried so often to the *Ale-house*, 'till it knew the way thither of it self. We must have Men to haul our *Ropes* and Manage our *Artillery*, and if we get these, they'l have little Heart to Fight, when their Stomachs are brought down by Corrupt Food; *England* may be in danger by *Intestine Enemies* Engaged in Foreign *Plots*, but it can never be Undone but by Treachery in our Fleet; in this Case we lose *Stock* and *Block*, our very *Shield*, our *Armour* of *Defence* is taken away, and tho' a *Strong Body*, we are Exposed Naked to an *Armed Enemy*. But we are yet in Hopes, this Affair is before that Noble Body of *Peers* in *Parliament*, who are the other Hope of our Kingdom, our *Sheet-Anchor*, at which, I hope, our *Ship of State* will ride secure of all *Storms*, *Hurricanes* and *Tempests*.

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